

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 06791 272151Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
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ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULS (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS OTTAWA 06791

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: STRIKE AND LOCKOUT STATISTICS

REF: (A) OTTAWA A-42, JAN. 28, 1977; (B) OTTAWA A-123,
APRIL 6, 1977.

1. AS ANTICIPATED IN OUR ANNUAL LABOR REPORT (REF A),
STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS LAST YEAR EXCEEDED THE PREVIOUS
RECORD OF 10,908,000 MAN DAYS LOST IN 1975. PRELIMINARY
STATISTICS CONTAINED IN REF B HAVE NOW BEEN REVISED BY
LABOUR CANADA TO REFLECT 11,609,890 MAN DAYS LOST IN
1976, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST ANNUAL FIGURE EVER RECORDED.
MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH NUMBER OF
WORK STOPPAGES WAS THE OCTOBER 14 ONE-DAY GENERAL STRIKE
CALLED BY CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS TO PROTEST WAGE/PRICE
CONTROLS WHICH ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR 830,000 MAN DAYS LOST.
THE 1,571,000 WORKERS INVOLVED IN WORK STOPPAGES LAST
YEAR WAS THREE TIMES AS HIGH AS IN 1975 AND THE 0.55
PERCENT ESTIMATED LOSS OF WORKING TIME SET A NEW HIGH FOR
THE PAST DECADE.

2. STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS DURING FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1977
HAVE MODERATED SIGNIFICANTLY. BY COMPARISON TO 1976
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WHEN THERE WERE 2.5 MILLION DAYS LOST, ONLY 941,000 WERE
REPORTED FOR SAME PERIOD THIS YEAR.

3. COMMENT: ORGANIZED LABOR'S OPPOSITION TO ANTI
INFLATION PROGRAM'S FIRST YEAR HAD CONTRIBUTED TO STRAINED
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND HENCE UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF
WORK DAYS LOST. WHILE STILL OPPOSED TO WAGE/PRICE

CONTROLS, TRADE UNIONS HAVE NOW COME AROUND TO BARGAINING
WITHIN THE WAGE GUIDELINES, THEREBY AVOIDING MANY STRIKES
OVER MONETARY ISSUES. COPIES OF LABOUR CANADA REPORT,
STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS IN CANADA, 1976, BEING FORWARDED
UNDER CERP. ENDERS

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